

Become a Thrifty, Travel Pro with the Help of the New Jersey State Library



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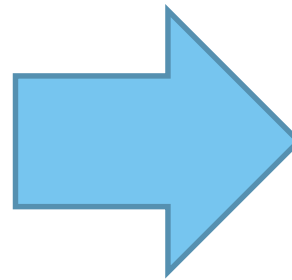
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Connecting people with information through libraries

NJ
State Library
An affiliate of Thomas Edison State College



Many of the resources featured in this presentation are available by using your New Jersey State Library membership!

**If see you see this icon
next to a resource
during this
presentation it means
you may be able to
access it though the
library for free:**



LIBRARY

Part one: Choosing a destination

- Websites to consult.
- Travel books.  LIBRARY
- Travel sections in media sources.  LIBRARY
- What is your budget?



Websites to consult.

- Wikivoyage



<https://www.wikivoyage.org/>

“**Wikivoyage** is a free web-based travel guide for travel destinations and travel topics written by volunteer authors. It is a sister project of **Wikipedia** and supported and hosted by the same non-profit Wikimedia Foundation. **Wikivoyage** has been called the "**Wikipedia** of travel guides".” from <https://www.wikivoyage.org/>

Many destinations are covered and include information on local sites, food, and other attractions. Information for staying safe and getting out are also included.

Travel review sites.

- VirtualTourist



<https://www.virtualtourist.com/>

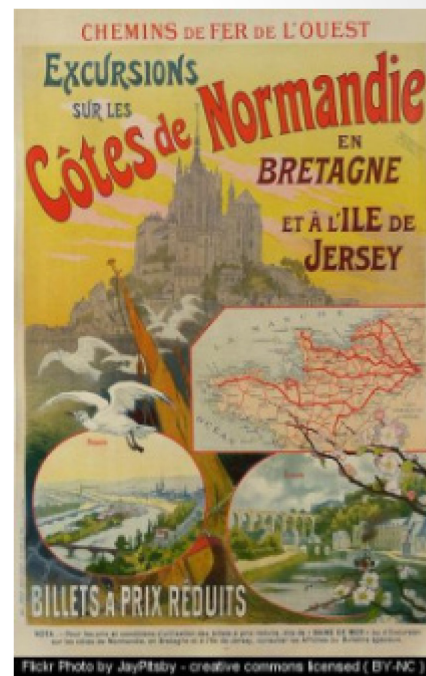
“VirtualTourist is a worldwide travel community where real travelers and locals share real travel advice and experiences. As one of the largest sources of unbiased, user-generated travel content in the world, VirtualTourist is the premier resource for travelers seeking an insider's perspective.” From: <https://www.virtualtourist.com/>

While not run by a non for profit organization like WikiVoyage, virtual tourist can be an excellent place to receive tips from fellow travelers on sites to see and what not to miss.

Travel Guide books and eBooks



- This is where the New Jersey State Library can step in to be of assistance!
 - Get copies of travel books from our physical collections or eBooks online with your library card at eLibraryNJ
- Not finding the books you need for your trip? No problem!
 - If you are a Thomas Edison University staff member/student or a New Jersey state employee, you can request a copy using the library's Illiad inter-library loan service. You can even request for the item to be sent directly to your work office.
 - If you are a New Jersey resident you can request copies using our JerseyCat interlibrary loan service. We check the holdings of many other New Jersey Libraries to see if we can have the title shipped here for you to pick up and check out.



Travel Guide books and eBooks

LIBRARY



- This is where the New Jersey State Library can step in to be of assistance!
- We also offer free eBooks and audiobooks.
- Using electronic books while traveling allows you to have lighter luggage! 😊

Flickr Photo by Hobbies on a Budget - creative commons licensed (BY)

Travel Guide books and eBooks



- eLibraryNJ

« Member Libraries Sign Out

eLIBRARY NJ
a downloadable digital media collection provided by libraries in central New Jersey (formerly ListenNJ)

Menu Account ? Help Search... Advanced Search



Sample

1,000 Places to See Before You Die

Completely Revised and Updated with Over 200 New Entries by Patricia Schultz

This title can be borrowed for 14 days.
(Change your lending period)

Borrow

Add to Wish List **Buy It Now**

★★★★★

The world's bestselling travel book is back in a more informative, more experiential, more budget-friendly full-color edition. A #1 *New York Times* bestseller, *1,000 Places* reinvented the idea of travel book as both wish list and practical guide. As

Available formats

Kindle Book
OverDrive Read
EPUB eBook
PDF eBook

Edition

2

Subjects

Nonfiction
Travel

Copies

Available:	4
Library copies:	4

Travel Guide books and eBooks



- Ebsco eBooks

The screenshot displays the Ebsco eBooks website interface. At the top, a blue navigation bar contains links for 'New Search', 'Dictionary', 'eBooks', 'Sign In', 'Folder', 'Preferences', 'Languages', and 'Help'. Below this, the search bar shows 'Searching: eBook Collection (EBSCOhost)' with a search input field containing 'EC TRV*' and a 'Search' button. The page title is 'NEW JERSEY STATE LIBRARY INFORMATION CENTER'. The main content area shows search results for 'Frommer's Kauai'. On the left, there are links for 'Detailed Record', 'PDF Full Text', and 'Download This eBook (Offline)'. The main record displays the title 'Frommer's Kauai' with a cover image. Below the title, it lists 'Authors: Foster, Jeanette', 'Publication Information: Ed.: 3rd ed. Hoboken, NJ : John Wiley & Sons, Inc. [US], 2008', 'Resource Type: eBook', 'Description: Includes indexes.', 'Categories: TRAVEL / Australia & Oceania', 'Related ISBNs: 9780470189849, 9780470287057', 'OCLC: 228074715', 'Accession Number: 225650', 'Publisher: Print/Save 60 pages', 'Permissions: Copy/Paste Restricted', and 'Concurrent User Level: Limited User Access (2 Copies Available)'. On the right, a 'Tools' sidebar offers options like 'Add to folder', 'Print', 'E-mail', 'Save', 'Cite', 'Export', 'Create Note', 'Permalink', and 'Share'.

Travel sections in media sources



- The New York Times offers great travel tips and suggestions.
 - Gain access to older articles using the State Library's New York Times databases.
 - You can also access the travel sections of other various magazines and newspapers either in the library or through its various online database subscriptions.
- If you are especially indecisive about locations to visit I recommend checking out the New York Times's annual 52 places to visit list.



What is your budget?

- It can be a good idea to research hotel, restaurant, public transportation, and attractions prices ahead of time.
- Sometimes booking far in advance or last minute can save costs.
- usnews.com publishes a great online guide where you can sort destinations in order of affordability.
- Also check prices for different destinations at different times of the year as they can change.
- Check foreign exchange rates as well for foreign countries, currently the US dollar is doing well, but this can always change.



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Part two: Choosing when to go

- Weather sites and considerations
- International calendars of events
- Pricing related factors



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Weather sites and considerations



- If visiting a destination where you intend to go to the beach or swim, it is good to look up historical weather data and ocean temperatures first. Also keep in mind that certain warm weather locations also go through hurricane and typhoon seasons as well.
- www.seatemperature.org is great for looking up ocean temperatures.

International calendars of events

- It can be a great idea to check in advance of any upcoming festivals, local holidays, or events you may like to attend while traveling. Certain events can also increase the cost of visiting certain destinations.
 - If you are an art lover check the scheduled exhibits at the local museums of the location you are planning on visiting.
 - If you are a food lover consider making reservations for the most popular restaurants months in advanced.



Pricing related factors

- Be aware many tourist destinations have a “high” or busy season and a “low” or more quiet season. Booking on the “shoulder seasons” can be a way to get great weather and save some money on accommodation and airfare fees.



Part three: Finding the (least expensive) airfare



- Google flight search
- Kayak
- Skyscanner
- A word on frequent flyer programs
 - Churning

Google flights

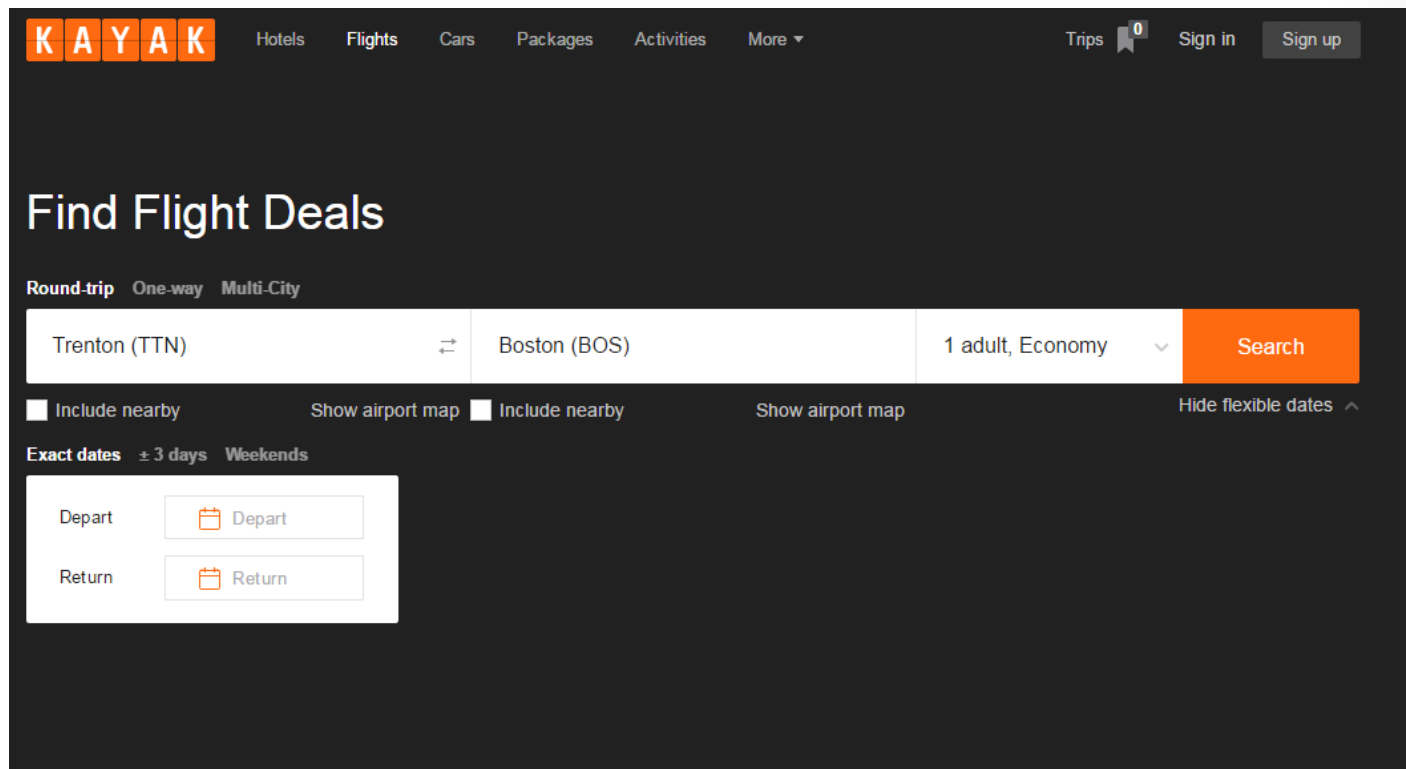
Uses Google-acquired flight software called ITA. It allows you to enter multiple origins and search over a wide stretch of time to find the lowest prices.

It is only for flights however, not hotels or car rentals.

The screenshot shows the Google Flights search interface. At the top, there's a search bar with the Google logo and a magnifying glass icon. Below it, a blue bar contains the word "Flights". The main search area has tabs for "Round trip", "One way", and "Multi-city". To the right, there are dropdowns for "Economy" and "1 adult". The origin is set to "TTN Trenton" and the destination is "Florida, United States". The departure date is "Fri, September 23" and the return date is "Tue, September 27". Below these are filters for "Stops", "Airline", "Times", and "More". A section titled "Discover destinations" has three tabs: "DATES" (selected), "PLACES", and "INTERESTS". Under "DATES", it shows "Sep 23 - 27". Under "PLACES", it shows "Florida, United ...". Under "INTERESTS", it shows "Any destination". Below these are buttons for months: "September", "October", "November", "December", "January 2017", and "February". There are also buttons for "Weekend", "1 week", and "2 weeks". A "Select specific dates" button is at the bottom right. The main display area shows a map of the United States with flight prices for various cities: Dallas (\$406), Houston, Reynosa, Nashville, Atlanta (\$97), Orlando (\$207), Miami, and Havana. A small image of Orlando is shown on the right.

Kayak

Kayak offers an aggregated search to find flights. It also allows for flexible dates. Additionally it can be used for hotel, cars, package vacation and more.



The screenshot shows the Kayak website's flight search interface. At the top, the Kayak logo is on the left, and navigation links for Hotels, Flights, Cars, Packages, Activities, and More are in the center. On the right, there are links for Trips (with a notification badge), Sign in, and Sign up. Below the navigation bar, the heading "Find Flight Deals" is displayed. Underneath, there are tabs for Round-trip, One-way, and Multi-City. The main search area contains a form with the following fields: "Trenton (TTN)" for the origin, "Boston (BOS)" for the destination, and "1 adult, Economy" for the passenger and class. A blue "Search" button is to the right of these fields. Below the search fields, there are checkboxes for "Include nearby" and "Show airport map" for both origin and destination. To the right of these is a link for "Hide flexible dates". Below the search area, there are tabs for "Exact dates", "± 3 days", and "Weekends". A date selection calendar is visible, showing "Depart" and "Return" dates with calendar icons.

Skyscanner

- Think of skyscanner as the European answer to Kayak. It can be used to search many of the low-cost airlines that serve Europe such as RyanAir, Volotea, Easyjet, etc. If traveling to Europe many of these flights can be less expensive than using a train or bus to travel between European cities.

skyscanner

Recent searches | Help | \$ USD | Log in >

Flights | Hotels | Car Rental

Roundtrip | One way | Multi-city

From: United States (US) | To: Enter a country, city or airport

Depart: 9/9/16 | Return: 9/10/16 | Cabin Class & Travelers: 1 adult, Economy

Search flights

\$99+ Super Cheap Flights Find Deals! GoLastMinute.com

We search over 1,200 trusted airline and travel sites including:

UNITED | American Airlines | travelocity | priceline.com | DELTA

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
28	29	30	31	1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8



A word on frequent flyer programs

- An entire subculture and hobby centered around getting free or discounted airfare by utilizing various frequent flyer programs offered by different airlines has emerged.
- Many amass airline miles or points which can then be used to airfare.
- These miles and points are earned by purchasing airfare or in some cases by signing up for credit card offers.
- There are several blogs and online forums devoted to flying for free by “churning” through credit offers for various airlines.
 - <https://www.reddit.com/r/churning/>
 - <http://thepointsguy.com/>
 - www.flyertalk.com



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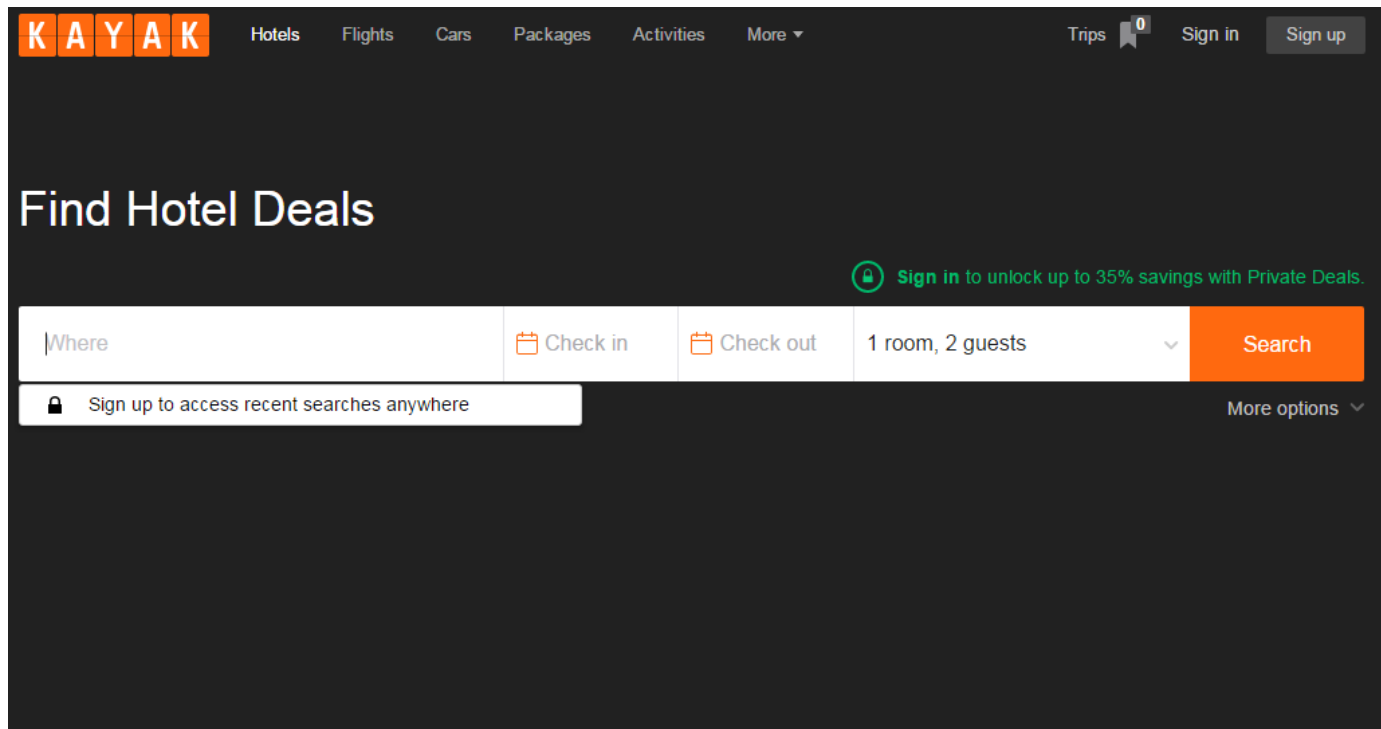
Part four: Finding accommodation

- Kayak
- Last minute hotel booking
- The rise of vacations rentals
 - VRBO
 - AirBNB
 - Tripadvisor
 - Couch  surfing
- Hostels
- Bed and Breakfasts 
- Agro-tourism



Kayak

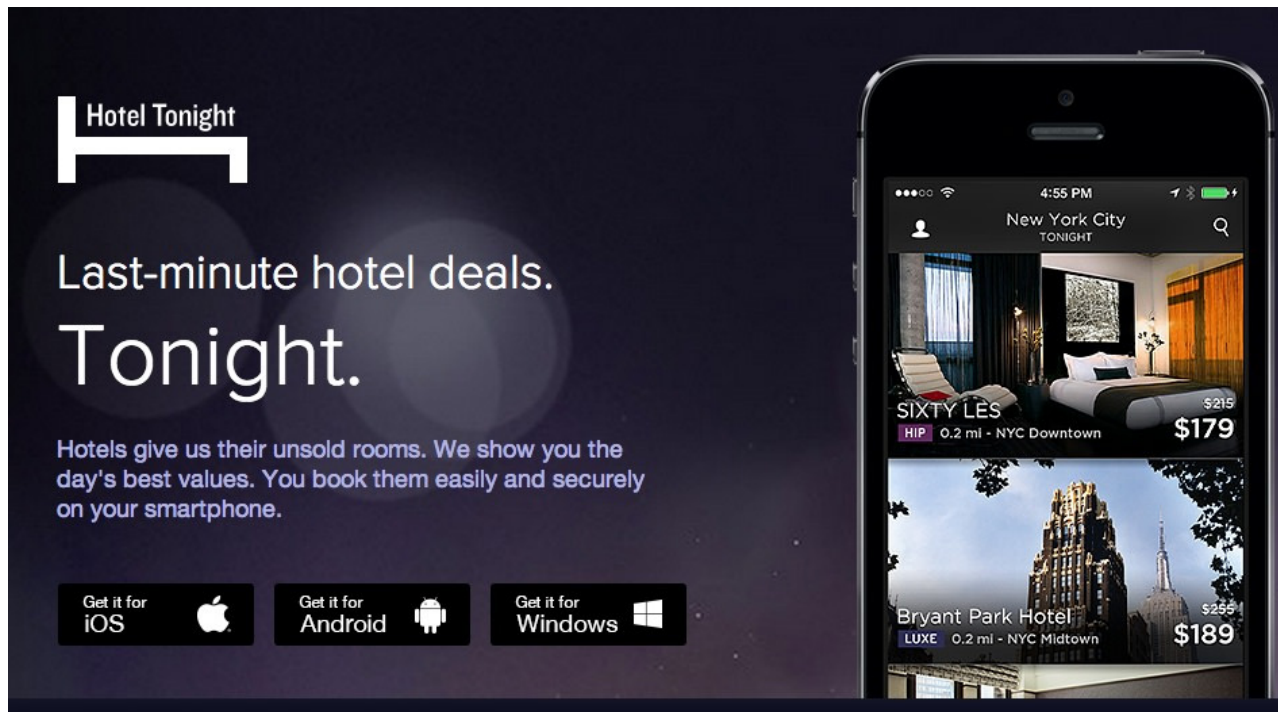
Kayak can be an excellent choice for searching many online hotel booking websites at one time. (booking.com can be better for international destinations occasionally)



The screenshot shows the Kayak website's hotel search interface. At the top, the Kayak logo is on the left, and navigation links for Hotels, Flights, Cars, Packages, Activities, and More are in the center. On the right, there are links for Trips (with a 0 badge), Sign in, and Sign up. Below the navigation bar, the heading "Find Hotel Deals" is displayed. A green banner with a lock icon and the text "Sign in to unlock up to 35% savings with Private Deals." is positioned above the search form. The search form consists of a "Where" input field, a "Check in" field with a calendar icon, a "Check out" field with a calendar icon, a dropdown menu showing "1 room, 2 guests", and an orange "Search" button. Below the search form, a white box with a lock icon and the text "Sign up to access recent searches anywhere" is visible. To the right of this box is a "More options" link with a dropdown arrow.

Hotel Tonight apps

Only available via IOS, Windows or Android apps, not online!
Book **Tonight**, Tomorrow or 7 Days Out and many times gets very discounted rates. Can be great for making a very last minute booking.



The rise of vacations rentals

- In recent years the trend of both individuals and companies renting out their properties directly to tourists has been on the increase. Some examples of trustworthy apartment rental websites include:
 - VRBO.com Vacation rentals by owner
 - Airbnb.com Offers rooms, shared spaces, and private apartments
 - Homeaway.com Vacation rentals by owner and companies
 - Flipkey.com Vacation rentals by owner and companies
 - Tripadvisor.com Vacation rentals by owner and companies
- While generally safe please always consult reviews for individual apartments.

The rise of vacations rentals

Pros

- You typically have more space than a hotel room.
- Can be less expensive than hotels.
- Commonly includes a full kitchen for cooking.
- Can be located in unique areas and offer *different accommodations*
- You may be able to travel and experience the location more like a local resident.

Cons

- Does not have a staff to help you with basic services such as cleaning or room service.
- May sometimes offer accommodations that are not as tidy and designed for travelers as hotels.

The rise of vacations rentals

Examples of interesting vacations rentals around the world




Couch Surfing



- <https://www.couchsurfing.com/>
- Couchsurfing is a service that connects members to a global community of travelers.
- Use Couchsurfing to find a place to stay or share your home and hometown with travelers.
- Couchsurfers organize regular events in 200,000 cities around the world.
- It's free

Hostels

- Many are available to all age groups.
- Mostly shared basic rooms and bathrooms
- Can be inexpensive to stay though not much less than hotels or vacation rentals if traveling with more than one.
- Usually charges per person.
- There are travel guides devoted to traveling in hostels. 
- Can be a great way to meet fellow travelers.
 - www.hostelworld.com, wikivoyage, or local travel books can be a great place to find reviews and listings.



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Bed and Breakfasts

- Bed and Breakfasts can also be an excellent choice for those that enjoy mingling with other guests and staying in a cozy and friendly atmosphere
- There are travel guides devoted to traveling in B&B's.
- Two great websites for finding bed and breakfasts around the world are:
 - <http://www.bedandbreakfastworld.com/>
 - <http://www.bedandbreakfast.com/>



Home Exchange

- “Your Exchange can be anything you want it to be. Plan it on your time, travel where you want, on your schedule. Partner with like-minded Members to get everyone’s ideal vacation. Travel your way and live like a local. Over 65,000 members.
- <https://www.homeexchange.com>



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Agro-tourism

Agriturismo

- Many countries now have agriturismo where guests stay in housing located directly on farms. Typically guests get to eat foods or wines created directly on site. These places are gaining in popularity in Europe, the United States, and Australia and New Zealand.

WWOOFing

- Founded in 1971, World Wide Opportunities on Organic Farms, or Willing Workers on Organic Farms. As opposed to agriturismo, tourists typically take part in the farm chores in exchange for discounted or free room and board.

Agro-tourism links

- www.calagtour.org Find a California farm or ranch to visit for enjoyment and education.
- agritourism.eu/ Your guide to farms, country cottages, farmhouses, country hotels and more!
- ww.agriturismo.it Your Guide to quality farm holidays in Italy



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commons
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(
BY-SA
)

WWOOF links

- www.woofinternational.org Live and Learn On Organic Farms. Volunteer exchange on sustainable and organic farms and properties.
- www.woof.net/ Volunteer help exchange on organic farms in 100+ countries
- <https://www.woofusa.org/> Produces a printed directory of organic farmers in the United States who participate in WWOOF programs.



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Part six: Travel hacks.

This collection of tips will give allow you to “hack” your travel, or in other words, it might help your travel experience be easier and more efficient!



Travel hacks : Trip organizing sites and apps.

- TripIt

TripIt is a website and corresponding smartphone application designed to organize and store all your travel plans in one place. You can even set it up to scan your email and add travel plans automatically add events and trips to your account, (kinda creepy but they assure privacy).

The screenshot shows the TripIt website homepage. At the top, the TripIt logo is displayed with the tagline "Organize your travel". To the right of the logo are links for "Remember Me", "Forgot your password?", and a "Login" button. Below the logo, the main heading reads "The best way to **organize** and **share** your travel plans". Underneath this, a subheading says "Just forward your travel confirmation emails to: plans@tripit.com".

The "How TripIt Works" section is divided into three numbered steps:

- 1** Email TripIt your travel plans - airline, hotel and more - no matter where you booked. (Illustrated with icons for an airplane, car, and hotel).
- 2** TripIt creates a master travel itinerary with all your trip plans and more. (Illustrated with a document icon).
- 3** With TripIt it's easy to access and share itineraries - online or from your mobile device. (Illustrated with a smartphone and a person icon).

To the right of these steps is a "Sign Up" section. It includes a "New Email" field with the example "ajrobison@gmail.com", a "New Password" field with a masked password "*****", and a "Sign up - it's free!" button. Below the button, there is a checkbox for "Send me TripIt updates and tips" and a note: "By clicking Sign Up, you confirm that you accept the [User Agreement](#)".

Below the "How TripIt Works" section, there are three quotes from reputable sources:

- WALL STREET JOURNAL**: "Addictive"
- TechCrunch**: "Incredibly easy to use and just a perfect, simple service"
- CNN**: "Best for organizing travel details"

The bottom section of the page is divided into three columns:

- LATEST FROM OUR BLOG**: Lists recent blog posts with dates, such as "Special Offer from Hertz for TripIt Travelers Only!" (04/10/09) and "Vote for TripIt in the CNET Webware 100" (04/07/09).
- LOVE FROM OUR TRAVELERS**: Features testimonials from users, such as "As a frequent traveler, I love, love, love TripIt" by Betsy Weber, TechSmith.
- OUR SPONSORS**: Displays logos for sponsors like Travel Guard and America.

At the very bottom, there is a footer with links for "Mobile Site", "Tools", "Help", "Contact Us", "Supported Sites", "User Agreement", "Privacy Policy", "About Us", "Blog", "Twitter", "Jobs", "Developers", "Testimonials", and "Press". It also includes a copyright notice: "© 2008-2009, TripIt, Inc."

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Travel hacks : Communicating while abroad

- Getting in touch with friends, family, or work used to be difficult. Now many online services can offer free or heavily discounted communication options so long as you have a smartphone and WiFi...
- Google Voice/ hangouts
- Skype
- www.onesimcard.com/
- facetime



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Travel hacks : Communicating while abroad

- Google Voice/ Google Hangouts
 - Available for Android and IOS devices as well as PC and Apple computers.
 - Allows you to setup a free online phone number.
 - This phone number can be used to place free calls in and to the US using only WiFi or cell phone data plans.
 - Calls to your Google Voice phone number can be forwarded automatically to your computer or another forwarding number.
 - Make free video calls to others with a Google account.



What's a Hangout?

Invite friends to a free video chat, anytime, anywhere.

[Learn more](#)

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Flickr Photo by bizbuzzmedia - creative commons licensed (BY-ND)

Travel hacks : Communicating while abroad



- www.onesimcard.com/

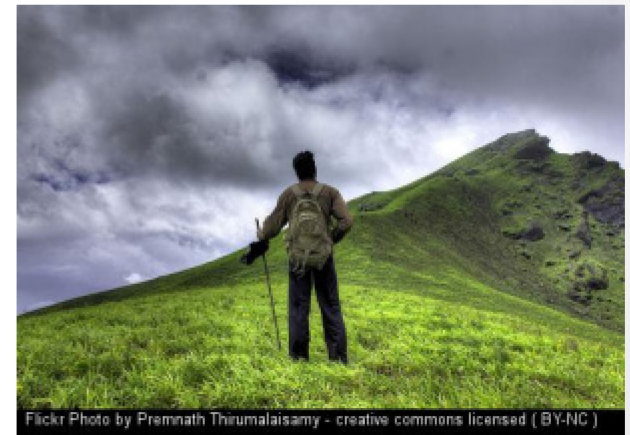
Many modern smart phones such as iPhones and many Android phones come from their carriers “unlocked”.

Unlocked means you can remove and insert sim cards from other mobile carriers.

OneSimCard provides you with an international phone number and data plan that works in over 200 countries. Many times their fees are less expensive than international calling plans provided by US carriers.

Travel hacks : Navigating while abroad

- While many like to experience “wanderlust” when traveling some still like having the help of taxis, digital maps, and GPS to help them find their hotel and other attractions.
- In recent years in order to access digital maps on your smartphone you had to have WiFi or a data plan available which could be very difficult or expensive depending where in the world you were, but now a few apps have been created which allow you download maps for offline use.
 - My Google Maps
 - Google Maps for Offline use
 - City Maps to go App
 - Uber
 - Public Transportation directions



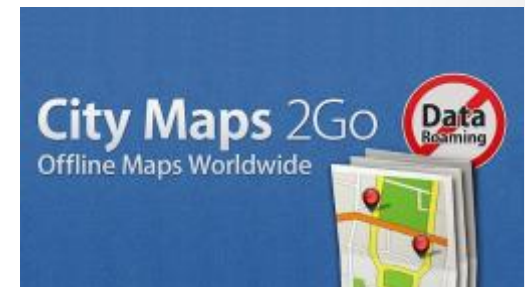
Flickr Photo by Premnath Thirumalaisamy - creative commons licensed (BY-NC)

Travel hacks : Navigating while abroad

- My Google Maps
- Google Maps for Offline use
- CityMaps2Go App
 - Google maps now allows users to create custom MyMaps which store points of interests such. Travelers can use this plot out destinations in advance of their trip.
 - The smartphone versions of Google maps also now allows for downloading sections of maps for entire cities or regions so that they can be used without the need of data. This is a godsend for travelers in countries without data or WiFi connections that need directions,
 - CityMaps2Go is another option for carrying a digital offline map that work with your device's GPS and does not require data to work.



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Travel hacks : Navigating while abroad

- Uber
 - Uber ride sharing and taxi service has expanded to many countries in Europe, Asia, the Middle East, and other locations. Frequently dealing with traditional taxis in foreign countries can be difficult so it might be worth it to investigate using Uber while you are abroad. Note you need data or consistent Wi-Fi for this to work.
- Public Transportation directions
 - Google maps gives excellent public transportation directions in most large international cities. This makes getting directions much easier while traveling.



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Travel hacks : Flights/ Airport

- Global entry and Fast Track

If you are someone that despises waiting in line at airport security or is a frequent flyer there are two new programs that can help.



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- TsaPreCheck
 - With a 5 year, \$85 membership, you can speed through security and don't need to remove your shoes, laptops, liquids, belts and light jackets at APPROVED AIRPORTS.
- Global Entry
 - All the benefits of TSAPreCheck plus allows "pre-approved, low risk" travelers an expedited means of clearing customs upon reentering the country. This has a \$100 fee.

Travel hacks : Flights/ Airport

- Seat Guru

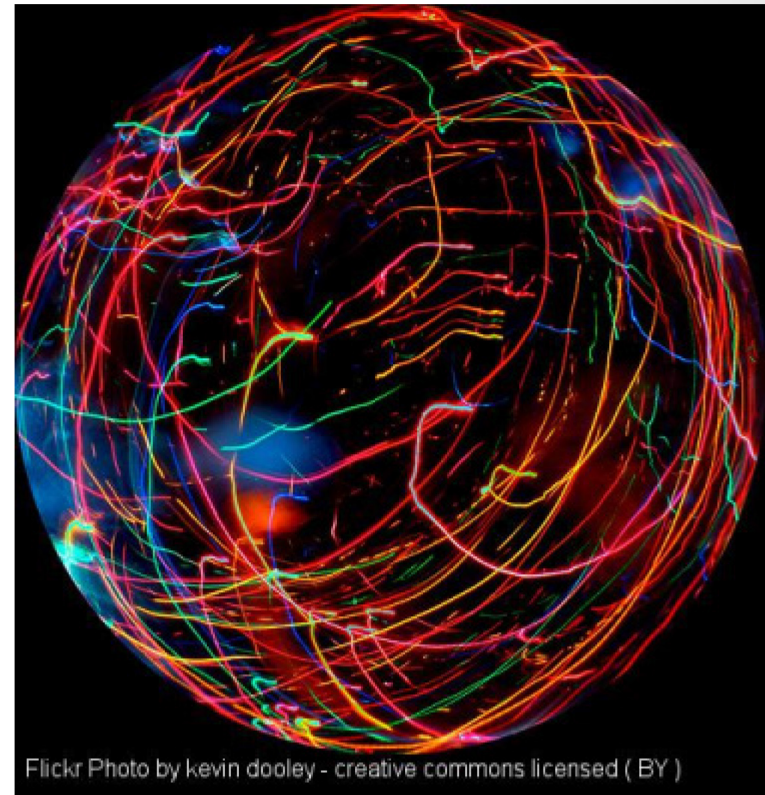
Travelers and frequent flyers love to review things from hotels to airlines. Because of this it isn't surprising that a website exists that specifically rates individual seats on airplanes. You can enter in your date and flight number and a chart will appear which has user-submitted comments for individual seats on the plane. The comments sometime warn of a broken table tray, limited leg room, or extra space due to being an emergency exit row.



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Travel hacks : Flights/ Airport

- Flightview
 - Available both as a stand alone website and as a smartphone app, Flightview allows you to track your airplane flights like a professional pilot.
 - You can see average travel times for your flight, be alerted of any delays, and see exactly where on the globe your plane is before it arrives to your airport!



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Travel hacks : Accessing blocked content from home

- Many online video streaming services including:
 - Netflix
 - Verizon/ Direct TV/ Comcast Xfinity Apps
 - Many Sports Apps

Block access to their content if they detect you are longer in the United States.

- But there is a work around!



You can still be a couch potato when you travel if you'd like...

Travel hacks : Accessing blocked content from home

- In order to still be able to access blocked content you can use a service call a Virtual Private Network or “VPN” to make it appear you are actually accessing the content from the United States.
- VPN’s can be purchased as a monthly fee and used on computers or smartphone.
- There are many apps available which may allow free trial use of VPNs as well.
- Netflix has gone on record as allowing the use of VPNs by its customers.



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Travel hacks : Navigating foreign language and currency Issues



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- Pronunciator from the Library 
- Rosetta Stone 
- Google Translate 

- Want to brush up on your language skills of the location you are visiting? The library offers several databases designed to help you learn vocabulary and improve your speaking skills in hundreds of foreign languages.
- The Google Translate smartphone application is a powerful tool you can use to translate speech, signs, menus, or text in real time!

Travel hacks : Navigating foreign language and currency Issues

- Currency conversion and obtaining foreign currency while abroad.
- <http://www.xe.com/currencyconverter/>
- Find out local costs in guidebooks or on websites such as <http://www.budgetyourtrip.com/>



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Travel hacks : Navigating foreign language and currency Issues

- A word about obtaining foreign currencies while traveling.
- Frequently, the currency exchange counters located in airports and in tourism centers in foreign cities do not offer the best exchange rates.
- Many travel experts recommend simply using your debit card (NOT CREDIT CARD) to withdrawal funds directly from a safe bank-owned ATM machine while abroad.
- Many American banks do charge foreign transactions fees when withdrawing money from a checking account abroad via an ATM, but these fees can be avoided in many cases by setting up a checking account with a credit union which many times do not charge these fees.



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Safe Travels!



Benjamin Saracco
NJ Reference & Electronic Resources Librarian
bsaracco@njstatelib.org
(609)278-2640 ext:115

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State Library
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